

Prevention in Kansas



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Family First awards announced

The official announcement for the Family First grantees took place during a press conference on October 1, 2:30 pm, at the DCF Administration Building in Topeka. Governor Kelly gave the introduction, stating how proud she was that Kansas was one of the first states to implement the federal program. Governor Kelly emphasized the quality and diversity of the providers, their programs, and their geographic location.

Secretary Howard and Governor Kelly announced the awards and recognized the evidence-based programs during the press conference. Selected providers, media,

stakeholders, administrative and regional leadership were all in attendance.

"Our grant selection team has ensured that parent skill-building and kinship navigator services are available in every county of Kansas. In addition, we ensured that there are robust substance use disorder and mental health services available in many parts of the state and we'll be looking forward to making those even more robust in the next round of grants," Secretary Howard stated.

See the full list of grantees, selected evidence-based programs, and service array map on page 4.



Prevention Provider Spotlight: DCCCA



DCCCA provides education and services based on research and has a dedicated commitment to improving lives. The agency serves communities throughout Kansas and Oklahoma and provides behavioral health and substance use services, prevention efforts to empower community coalitions, creating a stable, caring

environment for children in foster care and traffic safety education to reduce crashes and fatalities on the road. After more than 40 years of service, DCCCA continues to honor its commitment to help improve the quality of life for adults, youth and children.

Selected Programs

DCCCA has chosen three well researched evidence-based models to serve families with children at imminent risk of entering foster care. Each offers a unique approach.

Family First funding supports the Adolescent-Community Reinforcement Approach in Crawford County. A-CRA interventions facilitated by DCCCA staff will serve youth ages 12-18 who have a substance use disorder with or without a co-occurring mental health disorder, and their caregivers using youth alone, caregiver alone, and conjoint youth/caregiver therapy sessions over three months. Research studies suggest that A-CRA involvement reduces adolescent substance use, illegal activity, and engagement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

DCCCA's Family Preservation Services will incorporate two models and cover the Wichita Region and Kansas City Region. Family Centered Treatment is a trauma focused, clinically based intervention that enables necessary changes in critical areas of family functioning that place the family at risk of dissolution. Families are helped to identify intrinsic strengths to sustain change over time. A two year follow up study of FCT intervention versus out of home placement shows FCT provided significant, positive behavioral results and reduced post treatment out of home placement.

The second approach, Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (S.T.A.R.T. is an intensive in-home intervention for families who have co-occurring substance use and child welfare concerns. START pairs Case Managers with family mentors, Family Support Workers with lived recovery experience, to facilitate timely access to risk reducing interventions and addiction treatment. A 2012 comparison study found families achieved sobriety and retained custody of their children, mothers engaged in START achieved nearly twice the rate of favorable outcomes, and children involved with START entered state custody at half the rate.

"Family preservation gives DCCCA the opportunity to combine our strengths—substance use disorder treatment, home based services through our child placing agency and community-based services through our prevention work. By leveraging these foundational services, we can support families, increase family connections and networks, and strengthen them through intensive services setting them up for success with their children. We will apply evidence-based practices and programs to elevate positive outcomes for families." —Lori Alvarado, CEO



Top-left to clockwise: Lori Alvarado speaking at the Douglas County Behavioral Health Prevention Summit; Garden for women undergoing treatment at First Step at Lake View; DCCCA Staff at the Kansas Prevention Conference. Photos courtesy of DCCCA Facebook & Instagram, @dcccacommunications

Family Preservation changes in 2020

Beginning January 1, 2020, PPS Assessment and Prevention staff may choose between Tier 1 and Tier 2 when referring families to Family Preservation Services. The referral period will no longer be for 365 days. Services delivered are evidence-based and available 24/7 by qualified staff.

Tier 1, Intensive In-Home Services- Provided by a master's level practitioner with the intent to mitigate immediate child safety concerns, stabilize family crisis and assess the family's needs.

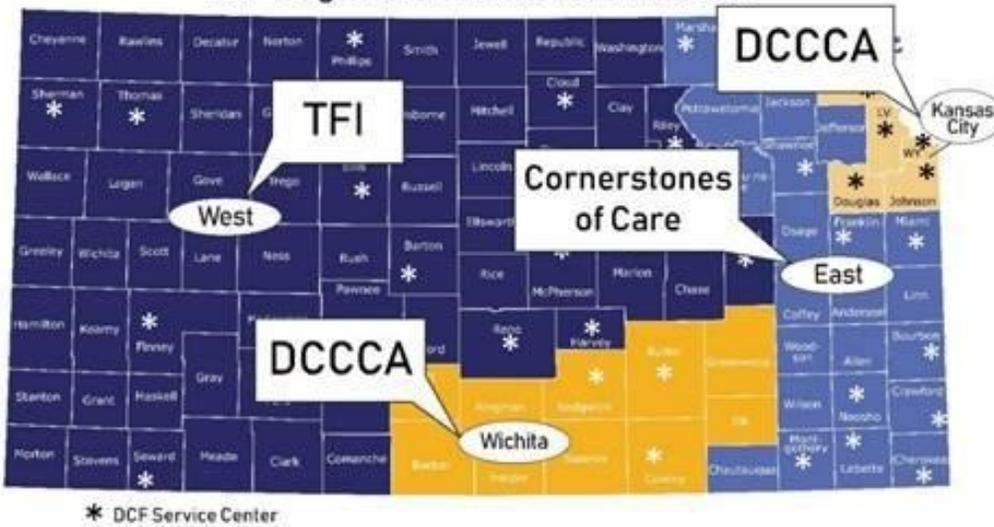
- Services last approximately six weeks.
- Will meet with the family intensively, consistent with the applied evidence-based model.

Tier 2, Short-term Case Management Services- Provided by a worker dyad consisting of an assigned Case Manager and a Family Support worker, assessing for existing risk and emergent safety issues and when identified, initiative services to stabilize and support the family.

- Services shall last three to six months.
- The case manager will meet with the family at a minimum of one hour face-to-face weekly.
- Family Support workers will assist the family with learning skills to strengthen the family system.



Family Preservation DCF Regions and Catchment Areas



Family Preservation Awards by Region

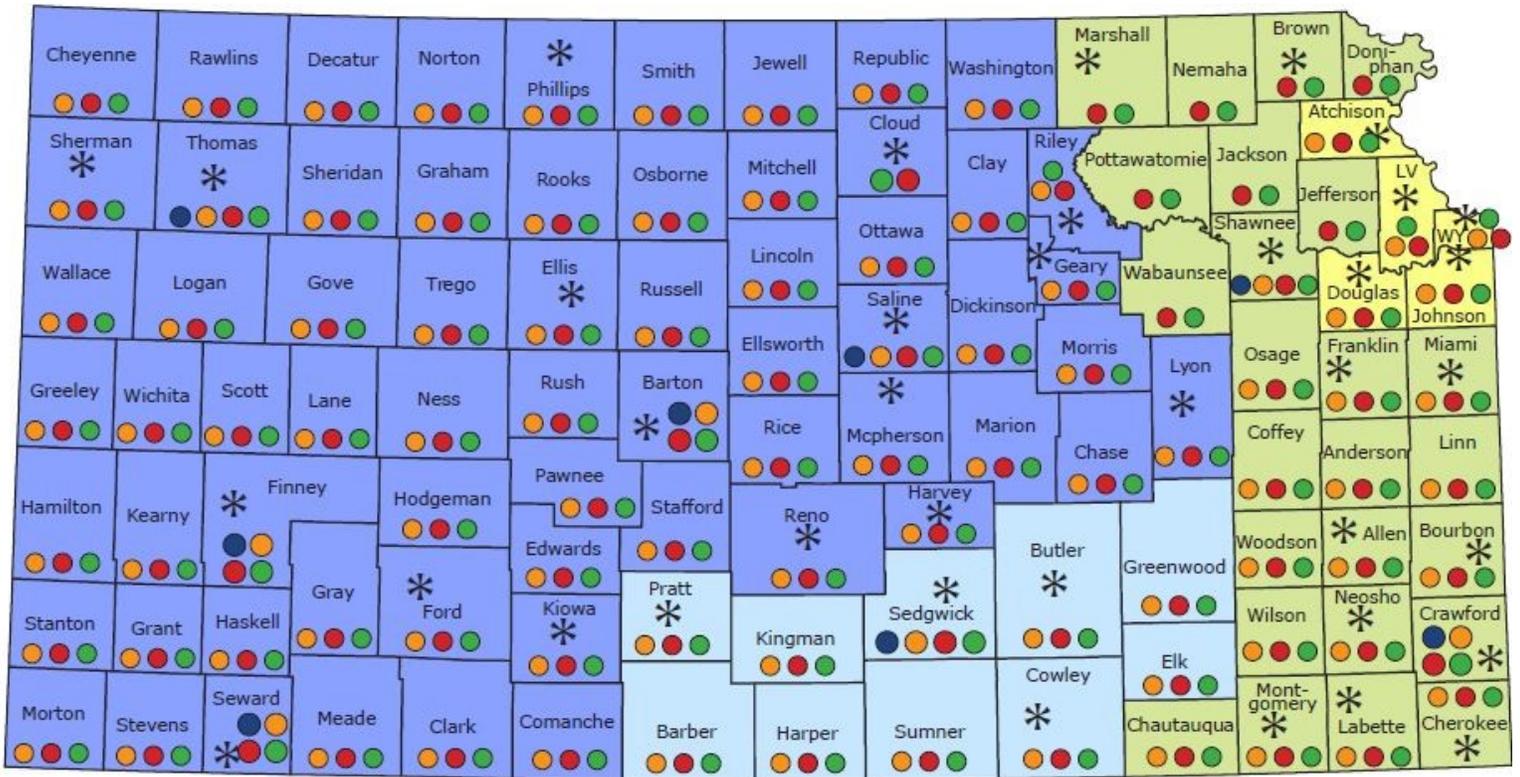
- Kansas City Region: DCCCA
- East Region: Cornerstones of Care
- Wichita Region: DCCCA
- West Region: TFI Family Services

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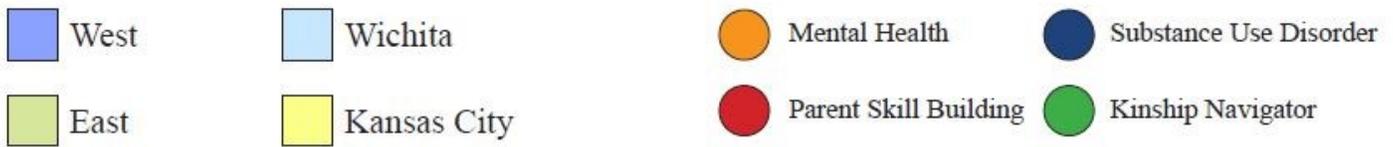
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Kansas Family First Prevention Services Act Awards



* DCF Service Center



Substance Use Disorder

DCCCA, Adolescent-Community Reinforcement Approach services to teens in Crawford county.

Kansas Children’s Service League, Parent-Child Assistance Program in Shawnee county.

Saint Francis Ministries, Seeking Safety in Sedgwick county and five counties in the West Region.

Mental Health

Community Solutions, Inc., Multisystemic Therapy in selected counties for each DCF region.

Cornerstones of Care, Functional Family Therapy in the Kansas City region

Horizons Mental Health Center, Parent Child Interaction Therapy in Reno county and four counties in the Wichita Region

TFI Family Services, Parent Child Interaction Therapy in selected counties in the East, West, and Wichita Regions.

Saint Francis Ministries, Family-Centered Therapy in the West and Wichita Regions.

Kinship Navigation

Kansas Legal Services, Kin-tech. Available statewide.

Parent Skill-Building

Child Advocacy and Parenting Services, Family Mentoring Program in Saline and Ottawa counties.

FosterAdopt Connect, Inc., Fostering Prevention Program in Johnson and Wyandotte counties.

Great Circle, Healthy Families America in selected counties for the East and Kansas City regions.

Kansas Children’s Service League,

Healthy Families America in Sedgwick county and selected counties in the East.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Association, support to Parents as Teacher’s programming across the state.

Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County, Healthy Families America in Douglas County in the Kansas City Region.

University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Inc. – Project Eagle, Attachment and Bio-Behavioral Catch-Up Program in selected counties in the Kansas City and West Regions.

The above map illustrates new Family First prevention services available in Kansas. For more details about counties and providers: familyfirst.dcf.ks.gov

HealthSource Integrated Solutions, QRTP independent assessor



Improving congregate care placements is one of the goals of the Family First program and the introduction of qualified residential treatment programs (QRTPs) is one of the ways the Act intends to do this. When foster care placement is needed, it is about treatment and the needs of the family, it is not about containment. Placement looks at the child's needs, not just what is available. This is done with an assessment of the child by an independent assessor who is not an employee of the state or a QRTP. An assessment must take place within 30 days of placement in the QRTP to determine whether the placement is appropriate.

HealthSource Integrated Solutions was officially awarded the independent assessor role for Kansas. The Topeka based not-for-profit LLC was formed in 2007. Over 90% of the Kansas Community Mental Health Centers have a trusted relationship with HealthSource. They specialize in crisis intervention screening and assessments, information technology managed services, clinical

call center and after hours services. The company has worked with the Kansas Department for Disability and Aging Services since 2015 on various projects.

As the independent assessor, Healthsource will be conducting the federally required assessment of children placed in the accredited QRTP facilities. They will use the Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment tool, or CAFAS tool, to assess a youth's day-to-day functioning and for tracking changes in functioning over time. This assessment will inform decisions about type and intensity of treatment, placement and need for referral to services. Assessments will focus on well-being, not just safety.

Leading the team is Colene Medrano, LMSW, and Director of Clinical Programs for HealthSource. Colene's staff will be attending facilities for both in-person and digital interviews to meet with the people in the child's life to

assess target behaviors, and ultimately develop a treatment plan for the child.

Accredited QRTP Facilities *

- Ember Hope, Newton, KS - 36 beds
- Kids TLC, Olathe -12 beds
- KVC, Kansas City, KS -16 beds
- Saint Francis Ministries, Salina - 16 beds
- Pathway Family Services, TFI, Topeka - 16 beds (finishing renovations for ADA compliancy, not yet accepting youth)

*Dated 10/14/19

Fall Meet and Greets for DCF staff and New Prevention Providers

Between Family First and Family Preservation, Kansas has awarded twenty new evidence-based foster care prevention programs for 2020. In an effort to start a conversation between the front line practitioners and the providers serving Kansas families, eight meet and greets events during the months of October and November have been scheduled throughout the state.

Regional leadership will open each event, followed by a brief intro from providers. The remaining time will be reserved for open house so DCF staff may attend at their convenience to visit provider booths.

The meet and greets not only serve the purpose of introductions but also as a way of saying thank you to everyone involved in the journey of foster care prevention.

“Open house venues are a terrific opportunity for our teams to get to know each prevention partner focus and impact alongside families. It’s exciting to have an array of programs for a personalized approach to bridge the family and their supports to the right community partner at the right time.”

—Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families

